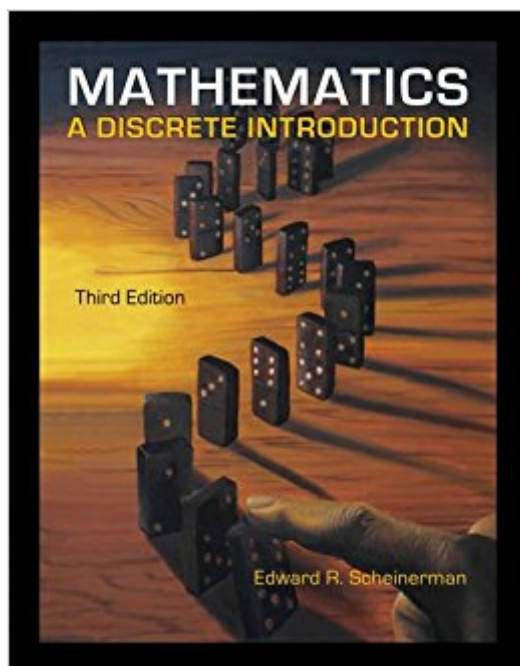


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# Mathematics: A Discrete Introduction



## Synopsis

Master the fundamentals of discrete mathematics and proof-writing with **MATHEMATICS: A DISCRETE INTRODUCTION!** With a clear presentation, the mathematics text teaches you not only how to write proofs, but how to think clearly and present cases logically beyond this course. Though it is presented from a mathematician's perspective, you will learn the importance of discrete mathematics in the fields of computer science, engineering, probability, statistics, operations research, and other areas of applied mathematics. Tools such hints and proof templates prepare you to succeed in this course.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Edward R. Scheinerman is Professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics at The Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Scheinerman's research interests include discrete mathematics; especially graph theory, partially ordered sets, random graphs, and combinatorics, as well as applications to robotics and networks.

The book is brief and to the point, rather than wasting my time with wordy nonsense. It really helped me to understand the material better. Since I was allowed to use this edition instead of being required to have the current edition, I saved over \$200.

love love it.....excellent for Math major, love the customer services

nice book

The book is in bad shape.

This book is an excellent introduction to discrete mathematics. It covers the art of mathematical proof (particularly as applied to discrete mathematics) and provides an introduction to every major branch of discrete math (or at least those that can truly be taught in an introductory sense). Having used this text as both a student (1st ed.) and an instructor (2nd ed.), I would say that the major strengths and weaknesses are as follows:

**Strengths:** The major strengths of this text are its emphasis on proof-writing, and the problems which cover both the basics of an area of discrete math or proof writing technique, as well as some more subtle points. Its coverage of the different branches of discrete mathematics is excellent for an introductory book, but is necessarily far less in depth than an introductory book focused on any single topic (e.g. an introductory text on algebra, or graph theory, etc.).

**Weaknesses:** The most frequent complaint I had as an instructor was that the text did not go particularly deep into any branch of math. The second most frequent complaint was that the text spent too long on teaching proof styles, particularly inductive proof. Both of these complaints typically came from more advanced undergraduates (3rd year +) who were used to more focused courses. The complaints are valid, but I think they misjudge the book for what it is intended to do, namely to prepare a student for more advanced courses in discrete math. To be blunt, if you are taking an intro to discrete math course in the same semester as a course on randomized algorithms and wonder why the intro to discrete math book seems so introductory it's probably because you put off taking the course for too long.

**Target Audience:** To get the most out of this book it's best to see it early, preferably as a high school senior or no later than a college sophomore. Because this is a standard introduction to discrete mathematics book, the price for the most current edition is not cheap. For autodidacts and others not required to get the current edition, the second edition is the best buy. It greatly expands the coverage of some topics (e.g. induction) from the first edition, and is reasonably priced.

Picked this book up from a half price bookstore. This is a fantastic book to use for a Discrete Mathematics course. Numerous examples, end of section questions and self test questions - with answers and hints. I've read 7 of the 10 chapters of the book (time of writing) - the subject matter was a pleasure to read - a well crafted exposition of Discrete Mathematics. Notable highlights were the treatment of Discrete Probability - I read this chapter and applied it to a Coursera course on

Algorithms - my understanding of Quick Sort and Randomized algorithms analysis benefited immensely. The treatment of Proofs is superb, contradiction, induction(strong), direct proofs are explained extremely well in this text. In truth, all chapters I've read so far have been fantastic to read. If this book contained a treatment of the Master Theorem, I'd say it was the ideal book on Discrete Mathematics for any CS major. Thanks.

I think this book should be required for all Discrete Math courses. Most courses require proofs, but they don't show students how to execute basic proof techniques. This book gives basic "proof templates" that are required for Discrete Math courses, necessary for young Math majors, helpful for physics majors, essential for anyone who wants to understand the Mathematics they encounter in their graduate science or engineering courses, and inspiring to anyone who wants to know how logic works. Even in my Mathematics PhD adventure, I would have moments of confusion that I could dissipate by going back to the basics, basics that I learned from this book. Even when I taught classes in calculus or complex analysis, I used the author's style to show students how to approach proofs. They were always amazed that they could understand ideas that once seemed alien. I even think a course based on this book should be offered in high-school. It actually introduces the most simplest ideas, if you think about it.

This book is very clear. It explains most of the fundamentals of discrete mathematics, including logic, combinatorics, graph theory, probability, number theory, cryptography, and more. Things are clearly explained, and students are taught the basics of proof writing. Proof templates give the reader a skeleton for different proofs (such as direct, contradiction, induction, contrapositive, etc.). A great book!

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